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PRESS RELEASE

Massachusetts Unemployment and Job Estimates for September 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

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BOSTON — The state's September total unemployment rate remained at 2.9 percent

(http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/Current_Month_unemployemnet.asp), the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts lost 1,000 jobs in September. (<http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/CES.asp>)

Over the month, the private sector lost 600 jobs as losses occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Other Services; and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. Gains occurred in the remaining six private sectors. Government lost jobs over the month.

From September 2018 to September 2019, BLS estimates Massachusetts added 35,300 jobs.

The September unemployment rate was six-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate of 3.5 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“The unemployment rate in Massachusetts has held at 2.9 percent for the third consecutive month and is six-tenths of a percentage point below the US rate. Massachusetts is estimated to have now added 286,100 jobs since the previous high level in February of 2001, and 350,000 jobs from the April 2008 pre-recession peak. These job gains have been concentrated in key areas of the economy like Education and Health Services,” Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta said.

The labor force increased by 2,500 from 3,837,400 in August, as 1,700 more residents were employed and 800 more residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – remained at 67.6 percent. Compared to September 2018, the labor force participation rate is down three-tenths of a percentage point.

The largest private sector percentage job gains over the year were in Information; Education and Health Services; Other Services; and Professional, Scientific, and Business Services.

September 2019 Employment Overview

Education and Health Services added 2,500 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services gained 18,400 (+2.3%) jobs.

Construction gained 500 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has lost 1,200 (-0.8%) jobs.

Information added 200 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information gained 2,800 (+3.1%) jobs.

Financial Activities gained 200 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities added 2,100 (+0.9%) jobs.

Manufacturing added 200 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 700 (-0.3%) jobs.

Professional, Scientific, and Business Services added 200 (0.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services gained 7,600 (+1.3%) jobs.

Leisure and Hospitality lost 3,400 (-0.9%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 1,500 (-0.4%) jobs.

Other Services lost 600 (-0.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are up 2,400 (+1.7%) jobs.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 400 (-0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 2,100 (+0.4%) jobs.

Government lost 400 (-0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government gained 3,300 (+0.7%) jobs.

Labor Force Overview

The September estimates show 3,728,400 Massachusetts residents were employed and 111,500 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,839,900. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 2.9 percent. The September labor force increased by 2,500 as 1,700 more residents were employed and 800 more residents were unemployed over the month. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, remained at 67.6 percent. The labor force was up 10,400 from the 3,829,500 September 2018 estimate, with 20,800 more residents employed and 10,300 fewer residents unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends.

NOTES:

The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.

Local area unemployment statistics for September 2019 will be released on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. The preliminary October 2019 and revised September 2019 unemployment rate, labor force and job estimates for Massachusetts will be released on Friday, November 15, 2019. See the [2019 Media Advisory annual schedule](http://Imi2.detma.org/Imi/Newsrelease/media2019.pdf) (<http://Imi2.detma.org/Imi/Newsrelease/media2019.pdf>) for a complete list of release dates.

Detailed labor market information is available at www.mass.gov/Imi (/Imi).

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Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

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